

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003, claims 1-28 were deemed to be subject to restriction or election. More specifically, restriction is required for Group I (Claims 1-8, 12-18, and 26-28), Group II (Claims 9-11, 19, and 21-5), and Group III (Claim 20). Further, the Office Action stated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct subcombinations. In addition, the Office Action stated that Applicant is required to elect a disclosed invention for prosecution on the merits.

By this Amendment and Response, the Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1-8, 12-18, and 26-28). The Applicant's election is without prejudice or admission with respect to the Applicant's right to re-file the withdrawn claims in a continuing application. No new matter has been introduced into the application. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and a finding of their allowability. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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